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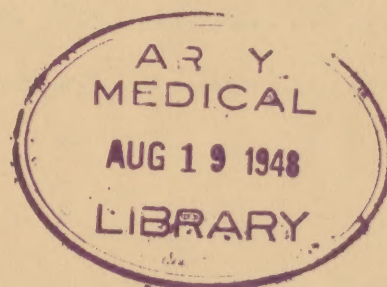
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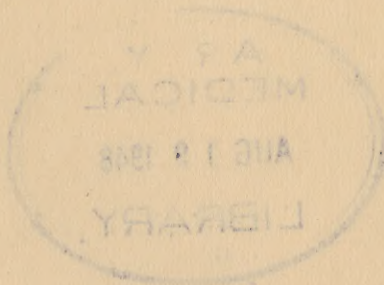


Office of the Surgeon, United States Army Forces in Australia.

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FOREWORD

The Monthly Bulletin - Office of the Chief Surgeon, U.S.A.S.O.S., S.W.P.A. is published for the purposes of disseminating information of general interest and of administrative value to the Medical Department personnel of the United States Army Forces in Australia.

While the information contained herein will be compiled from information available in the Office of the Chief Surgeon, all Medical Department Officers and agencies are invited to submit items of general interest. Such material will be published as soon as practicable.

It is not intended that the material herein contained shall have the force of directives, but should be used as a guide by those concerned.

It is with the hope of assisting Medical Department personnel with their problems that this Bulletin has been initiated.

WAR DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 290.

1. War Department Circular No. 290, 28 August, 1942, is quoted in full for the information of all concerned and for compliance by all activities of the United States Army Services of Supply, in connection with U.S.A.S.O.S. Regulations 10-11, 10 August, 1942.

"Promotion of officers in the Army of the United States.-- Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942, is amended by adding section 111 as follows:-

111. Promotion of officers in the Army of the United States under Provisions of Sections 1 and 11, Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942. --

1. The attention of all is directed to the provisions of paragraph 71b and the last sentence of paragraph 72, MR 1-3, and to paragraph 7, section 1, Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942. From these paragraphs it is evident that it is the intent of the War Department that wartime promotion shall be by selection of the best fitted in all commands and activities.

2. Recommendations for promotion being received by the War Department indicate that too much emphasis is being placed upon the fact that an officer has held his current grade for a period of 6 months and upon accident of assignment, especially in promotions to field grades. They are indicative of failure on the part of many commanders to understand fully the intent of the War Department in regard to promotion, and to appreciate the morale effect of such procedure upon the great number of capable officers who are denied promotion for the time being for the reason that they are not fortunate enough to have an assignment in which they currently can be promoted.

3. In a system of promotion by selection relative seniority in all grades of officers is, of necessity a fluctuating condition. However, when two or more officers considered to have equal professional ability are available within a command, the senior officer should be given preference when promotion to fill any existing position vacancy is being considered, provided he is qualified and available for assignment thereto. This should be done regardless of the fact that the junior may be currently filling the position, be qualified for the position, and otherwise be qualified for promotion to the next higher grade. Only by a careful and judicious pursuit of this policy will commanders accomplish the results desired by the War Department in connection with promotion of officers, especially to field grades. In this connection, special attention is invited to paragraph 7, Section 11, Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942 (Appendix B, MR 1-3).

4. While it is not the intent of the War Department to deny any officer promotion to a grade commensurate with his qualifications and responsibilities, it is the announced policy of the War Department to require satisfactory evidence that an officer is not only professionally qualified for promotion and meets time in grade requirements, but that his promotion is definitely to the best interests of the service for the reason that he is considered to be the best qualified officer in the command available for the position and grade to which promotion is recommended. In this connection, attention is invited to the last sentence of paragraph 6c and to paragraph 9b (3), Section 1, Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942.

4. a. Future recommendations for promotion to grades of major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel will be handled as separate communications and will not be included with recommendations for promotion to company grades. In addition to the information required by paragraph 9b, Section 1, Circular No. 161, War Department, 1942, all future recommendations for promotion will clearly indicate that the relative rank of the officer concerned has been given due consideration. The following statement will be included in each recommendation for promotion to major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel, and in each indorsement placed thereon by division, corps and army or corresponding commanders by whom the recommendation is approved:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, this is the best fitted officer available in this command for the grade and position for which promotion is recommended.

b. Each recommendation for promotion to field grade or the indorsement thereon will be signed by each successive commander through whose headquarters it passes, except that indorsements of Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces and Services of Supply may be signed by an appropriate staff officer.

6. Recommendations which fail to meet fully the requirements and intent of these instructions will not receive favorable consideration by the War Department.

(A.G. 210.2 (8-27-42)."

Section 11. SECURITY MEASURES HANDLING MILITARY INFORMATION.

1. The necessity for constant and continuous safeguarding military information is obvious. Personnel having information bearing directly or indirectly on operations must be constantly alert to prevent such information being divulged to anyone except military personnel who may be working on the project. A thoughtless remark in a public place or an inadvertent telephone conversation may result in the failure of an entire mission.

2. The public telephone system will not be used for inter-office, local or long distance calls when discussing secret or confidential military operations. Such calls will only be made over the special telephone system. Access to this system may be had upon request to the Adjutant General of this headquarters or base sections.

3. Messages and dispatches referring to operations will be handled "safe hand" by officers or specially selected messengers within buildings. Messengers will use appropriate containers, otherwise such communications will be transmitted in double sealed envelope. All clerical personnel and administrative officers will give constant attention to safeguarding of such papers during administrative processing. Papers will not be left on top of desks or other places where they may be seen by unauthorized individuals.

4. Troop movement directives will not be circulated as a routine procedure throughout headquarters and base sections and the contents will be made available only to essential personnel. Special care will be taken in safeguarding movement directives, movement orders and station lists. Such communications should be receipted for by an officer and be kept preferably in a safe or locked file cabinet to which a minimum of personnel has access.

5. Scrap papers, messages, work sheets, blotters and like material resulting from the preparation of operational directives, will be destroyed by tearing and will be placed in a separate container to be burned each night. The necessary arrangements will be made in each office for the burning of such papers.

6. All personnel are enjoined to give particular attention to expeditious and careful handling of communications of this nature. Such communications should normally be handled by officers from section to section for the purpose of securing necessary concurrence.

7. It is essential that each individual refrain from discussing the local military situation in public places or over the public telephone. Discussions of military matters with military personnel or civilians, male or female, while visiting cocktail lounges or dining in restaurants must be avoided at all times.

8. Officers and men and civilian employees will view with suspicion any person asking questions about military subjects or discussing such topics where there is even remote possibility that the information may reach the enemy. Such suspicions should be reported to the appropriate U.S. Army Intelligence Officer, giving as complete details as possible.

9. The attention of all personnel is directed to the provisions of Army Regulations 380-5 (Safeguarding Military Information). GSXM 371.2 (2-10-42).

CHANGES IN A.R. 40-590

Paragraph 13 - Civilian hospital employees. Rations C-1 authorizes for the first time the commutation of rations for those female technicians and other female employees who are invited by the chief nurse to participate in the hospital mess for nurses and are assigned thereto by the commanding officer. C-2 prescribes that such rations shall be commuted at the rate of 70 cents a day, payment thereof to be made by the local disbursing officer. (C.1. noted in Bulletin No. 2, page 18)

CIRCULAR NO. 257 - W.D. JULY 31, 1942.

Section 11 - Serological tests for syphilis for applicants for training at schools for bakers and cooks -- Changes in AR 350-940. --Pending the revision of AR 350-940, July 30, 1937, paragraph 6b (4) (b) of those regulations is changed as follows:-

6b (4) (b) The surgeon's certificate of good health, showing specifically ---

1. No communicable disease.
2. Freedom from infectious lesions of venereal disease. Serological tests not required for this examination.
3. Typhoid and paratyphoid prophylaxis completed.

(A.G. 352 (6-30-42).)

PENTOTHAL SODIUM.

Technical Instruction No. 18 issued by the D.G.M.S. Australian Army, gives an enthusiastic report from the 4th Australian General Hospital on the use of Pentothal Sodium following the technique of Lundy. They consider it to be the anaesthesia of choice particularly in forward areas for operations of twenty minutes or less, (for which duration 20cc. of solution will suffice) and at times for longer procedures in extremely hot weather where difficulty in vaporization of ether occurs. It was found suitable for cleaning and dressing many burns, the reduction of some fractures, minor amputations, removal of foreign bodies, the debridement of wounds, and numerous minor surgical procedures. For longer operations and those requiring muscular relaxation one of the other types of anaesthesia will usually be indicated.

The danger of laryngeal spasm is stressed. For this reason the use of ether after induction with Pentothal, and the use of an airway are advised against as they may induce coughing. Contra-indications to the use of Pentothal they cite are in cases of infection and wounds of the neck, gross respiratory diseases, dyspnoea, and where blood or excess mucus may collect in the pharynx, namely cases where laryngeal spasm is likely.

G.S.W. OF THE HAND.

Technical Instruction No. 17 D.G.M.S. Australian Army in reference to gun shot wounds of the hand recommends that only definitely devitalized tissue will be removed in debridement of hand wounds, and that excision will be as conservative as possible. Amputations of fingers or thumb will be as minimal as possible leaving as much of the proximal phalanx as can be left safely. It is pointed out that fixation in plaster of an injured hand in faulty position may cause a crippling disability.

REVISED FORM FOR REPORT OF DENTAL SERVICE.

Form 57 has been revised with a view to simplifying the form without sacrificing any data required in the Office of The Surgeon General. The form has been reduced from the double type to a single sheet. The principle changes are omission of old section 5, replaced by new section 4, requiring only the latest available classification of the command in place of the detailed accounting for all changes, omission of primary disease column, omission of the printed list of diagnoses, simplification of the printed list of operations, and addition of space to provide a list of names of officer personnel and space to report the number of each grade of enlisted and civil service personnel.

A circular letter has been prepared and distributed to all dental surgeons in Australia. It is desired that a diagnosis be entered for operations performed but no strict balance between the diagnosis reported and the operations performed is required.

The list of primary causes for extraction should not be entered on the new form. The duties of the dental officer should be described in a few words such as are the duties listed in 330-40. Some of these are surgeon, dental (for camp or post dental surgeon) chief of dental clinic (chief clinician), chief of oral surgery section, oral surgical section assistant, chief of prosthetic section, prosthetist, chief of dental operative section, dental operative section assistant, supply officer, mess officer, and many others. However, in smaller stations where the dental clinic is not organized into oral surgical, operative, and prosthetic sections the designations surgeon, dental can be used for the ranking dental officer and duty with dental clinic used to designate the duties of all other dental officers on duty. No leave, detached service, or sick in hospital need be reported on form 57.

In brief the purpose of revision has been to simplify this form and all requirements tending toward complication have been eliminated. The revised form 57 MD can be obtained on requisition from the Medical Supply Depots.

THE CONSERVATION OF DENTAL SUPPLIES.

A survey of monthly inventories from the Medical Supply Depots in Australia has revealed that the supply level of all Class 5 Items (Dental Supplies) is low. There is no assurance of any appreciable increase in the supply level in the future. As a result of this

situation, it is necessary to ask every dental officer to give his full support toward conservation of dental supplies, in order that an adequate dental service may be maintained throughout the entire Southwest Pacific Area. This should not be construed as meaning that the amount of dental treatment given to the military forces should be decreased. Emphasis should be placed on the elimination of waste, and obtaining a maximum use of the supplies on hand.

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